

# MEMO

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DATE: August 29, 2019

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

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Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- Prime Minister Sarraj continues to hold discussions with key US officials, mainly the new US Ambassador to Libya and US Commander of AFRICOM. All are reaffirming the need for a political solution to the conflict.
- Outside actors, mainly US allies, remain influencing the current conflict in Libya, and are situated on both sides of the war. These countries are attempting to influence in the oil-rich country.
- PM Sarraj reaffirmed his stance on not speaking with Haftar, and believes, as displayed by results on the ground, that his forces can defeat the LNA's attacks.

Africa CGTN (8/28): [AFRICOM commander, US ambassador hold talks with Libyan PM](#)

- Prime Minister Sarraj met with the new Ambassador Norland and the US Commander of AFRICOM to discuss US security interests in Libya.
- AFRICOM stated the meeting helped create new relationships and assess the situation in Libya.
- Commander Townsend emphasized to Sarraj the importance of supporting a diplomatic solution to put an end to the current conflict.

Libya Observer (8/26): [Libyan government source: French drones' control room in Libya to back up Haftar](#)

- Reports on Aljazeera TV indicate that a French military unit has set up a control room for drones at an oil terminal in northern Libya.
- This comes as the French are rejecting they have provided military support to Haftar's forces.

AFP (8/24): [Flights suspended at Libya airport after rocket fire](#)

- Rocket fire by Haftar's LNA forces have suspended flights out of the Libyan capital's sole functioning airport.
- Two civilian flights were landing at the time the rockets hit the airport.
- Since April, at least 1,093 people have been killed, with another 5,752 wounded and 120,000 displaced due to the conflict.

Bloomberg (8/23): [When the Sun Sets in Libya, Two U.S. Allies Get Down to War](#)

- Regional and European powers are competing in Libya for influence over the region.
- The UAE, Turkey, and France are all involved in the ongoing civil war on opposite sides of the conflict.
- Current Security Council arms embargoes, established in 2011, have mainly gone unenforced in the region.

Libya Observer (8/22): [US ambassador presents his credentials to Libya's Foreign Minister](#)

- US Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland presented his credentials to Libyan Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala in a Libyan embassy in Tunisia.
- Norland stressed a need to create diplomatic channels with all parties in the conflict to reach a quick end to the crisis.
- Norland spoke with PM Sarraj on crime fields, anti-terrorism, drug issues on a phone call last week.

Libya Observer (8/22): [Al-Sarraj reaffirms defending Tripoli and rejection of dialogue with Haftar](#)

- Prime Minister Sarraj has rejected any dialogue with General Haftar with the battle to defend Tripoli continuing.
- Sarraj believes that the Libyan Army and its affiliates can defeat current forces attacking them.

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